

Wood Scandal

4833. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Punjab Kesri' dated March 10, 1997 regarding alleged irregularities committed in Bhartiya Rajya Farm Nigam in the sale of wood;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have instituted any inquiry in this matter; and

(d) if so, the time by which the report of the inquiry is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In this news item, allegations have been levelled against the management of State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) Limited, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture regarding irregularities in the sale of wood.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There have been no irregularities in the sale of wood in the State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI). Only surplus wood of dried and fallen trees is sold, after internal use, by SFCI. This wood is sold as firewood either to Ganga Nagar Sugar Mills (A State Government Undertaking of Rajasthan) at a Mutually agreed price or through open auction at unit level. Total sale does not exceed Rs. 12/- lakhs (approx.) per annum. In view of this, there is no proposal to hold an inquiry into the allegations.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Fruit Based Industries

4834. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI L. RAMANA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the technology and infrastructure in the field of fruit based processing industries and increase capital during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) Modernisation of technology in any field including that of Fruit based industries is an on-going process. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been operating many developmental plan schemes during the Eighth Plan period for the overall development of food processing industries including Fruit Based Processing Industries. Plan Schemes formulated by the Ministry for implementation during the Ninth Plan include *inter alia* scheme for provision of financial assistance for setting up infrastructural facilities, for setting up/expansion/modernisation of food processing industries and for Research and Development Programme.

[English]

Arrest of Bhutani Leaders in Delhi

4835. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Rong Tlong Kernby Dorjee, Chairman of United Front for Democracy in Bhutan was arrested by the Delhi Police on 18.3.97 in Delhi;

(b) whether under the provisions of Indo-Bhutan Treaty of 1949 there is no restriction to go/walk to each others country for the citizens of both the countries;

(c) if so, the grounds on which Shri Dorjee was arrested; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOLDAR) : (a) No, Sir. However, the movement of Shri Rong Tlong Kernby Dorjee was restricted under the section 3(2) (e) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 and para 11(2) of the Foreigners' Orders, 1948.

(b) The two countries have an open border and the citizens of one country can visit the other country without any passport or visa.

(c) and (d) The movement of Shri Dorjee was restricted on a specific request from the Royal Government of Bhutan for apprehending him to face a number of charges including fraud, embezzlement, etc. in that country for which a warrant of arrest has been issued by the Royal High Court of Bhutan.

Equipment Dropping by Helicopter

4836. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that an unidentified helicopter dropped iron rods, wire nets and electronic equipments over a village in West Bengal in bizarre echo;